REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-30 are pending in this application.

Request for Interview:

Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner to discuss the

present application. In particular, Applicant would greatly appreciate the opportunity to

discuss the §103 rejection of Donohue et al and Christensen et al, which has been

presented in several previous Office Actions, in order to advance prosecution of the

present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

The Office Action alleges that the limitation "each template file being effective,

when applied to a content file" lacks antecedent basis. This allegation is not fully

understood by Applicant. The recitation of "a content file" (boldfaced and underlined in

the Office Action) does not read "said content file" or "the content file." Moreover,

claim 1, as an example, previously requires "locating one or more content files, each

content file being stored in a directory of the computer system." Accordingly, Applicant

believes that the claims are in full conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Nevertheless,

Applicant is open to the Examiner's comments and suggestions which may be discussed

at the requested interview. Applicant notes that the present language of claims 1, 5 and

13-16 was presented in the Amendment/Response dated May 24, 2004, and that the

August 24, 2004 Office Action did not provide any rejection of these claims under 35

U.S.C. §112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Donohue et al (U.S. '480, hereinafter "Donohue") in view of Christensen et al (U.S. '543, hereinafter "Christensen"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. The combination of Donohue and Christensen fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest "locating each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system...and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied," as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similar comments apply to independent claims 5, 13 and 14 and their respective dependents. The combination of Donohue and Christensen also fails to teach or suggest in a computer file system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system, and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, as required by independent claims 15 and 16 and their respective dependents.

Exemplary embodiments of the present invention relate to a method and system relate of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system

which is divided into directories. This is achieved, in a first step, by locating one or more

content files, each of which is stored in a directory of the computer file system. The next

step is to associate a template file with a directory in which at least one content file is

stored, the template being arranged to perform a predetermined templating operation on a

document to which it is applied. Finally, a tool applies the template file to the or each

content file in its associated directory (e.g., so that the predetermined templating

operation is applied to the or each content file to control its/their appearance). In this

way, a particular look and feel is applied to the or each content file. This has particular

advantages when it is desired to apply a consistent appearance to a batch of files since all

files can be grouped in the same directory, e.g., using known drop and drag techniques,

and the desired template applied. Overall, the facility makes the process of changing the

appearance of content files straightforward since all that is required is for the content file

to be stored in a directory with which the desired template file is associated.

Donohue fails to teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations for the reasons

discussed in Applicant's previously filed February 24, 2005 and November 24, 2004

Responses (the comments of which are incorporated herein). Indeed, Donohue fails to

teach or suggest storing one or more content files in a directory of a computer file system,

which directory is associated with a template file suitable for controlling the appearance

of the or each content file to which it is applied. This feature of the present invention

enables a user to easily and efficiently impose a desired appearance on one or a batch of

documents by storing them in a directory that is associated with a template file. The

template file can be associated with the directory before or after the content files are

stored therein.

Page 3, last paragraph of the Office Action admits that Donohue "does not clearly teach that the directory storing the content file and the template." Applicant submits that Christensen fails to remedy this admitted deficiency of Donohue. However, it is noted that the above quoted claim limitations do not merely relate to a directory storing a content file and a template. The above quoted claim limitations further relate to locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system, and applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory. The Office Action does not properly address these limitations.

The Office Action apparently alleges that Christensen discloses a search system in which a content file and metadata are stored together in a content wrapper that is organized in a directory and that it would have been obvious to substitute the name-value in Donohue with the content file of Christensen since such a hypothetical combination would allegedly reduce network traffic in searching for data.

First, the Office Action is incorrect in its allegation that Christensen discloses a content file organized in a directory. Referring to Fig. 5 and related description at col. 6, lines 28-39, it is clear that the "directory" is a data <u>subset</u> of the content-wrapper-package and provides a list of what is in the package and offsets for each part of the file. In other words, the term refers to a sort of index as opposed to a computer organization unit within which can be stored computer files, programs etc.

The Office Action alleges that if the teachings in Donohue and Christensen were combined, network traffic would be reduced in searching for data. However, neither Donohue nor Christensen would have suggested or motivated one of ordinary skill in the

art to solve a problem relating to network traffic or the problem that the present invention

aims to solve. Accordingly, Applicant submits that there is absolutely no motivation to

combine the teachings of Donohue and Christensen. Col. 14, lines 28-36 of Donohue and

col. 4, lines 41-47 of Christensen (referred for example at page 4, lines 1-2 of the Office

Action) fail to provide any motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to solve any

specific problem.

Even assuming arguendo that Donohue and Christensen were combined in the

manner suggested by the Office Action, the hypothetical combination would simply

result in one list (the content file of Christensen) being substituted in place of another (the

name-value list of Donohue). This hypothetically combined method would still fail to

teach or suggest the claimed features of locating content files, each content file being

stored in a directory of the computer file system, associating one or more template files

with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, and applying the or each

template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory,

wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of

the or each template file is applied.

Section 6 of the Office Action states "Applicant argues that the combination of

Donohue and Christensen fails to teach a computer file system storing both one or more

content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories." This

statement in the Office Action mischaracterizes Applicant's arguments. As discussed

above, the present invention further relates to locating one or more content files, each

content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system, and applying the or

each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-22 are not "obvious" over Donohue in view of Christensen and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 23-30 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Independent claim 23 and its dependents require, *inter alia*, "automatically processing the or each information-bearing content file in the directory in accordance with the associated template file to thereby generate a corresponding templated information-bearing content file or files, whose appearance is controlled by the associated template file." Independent claim 27 and its dependents require, *inter alia*, "automatically processing an information-bearing content file or files within a directory in accordance with a template file associated with such a directory by said associating means to generate a corresponding templated information-bearing content file or files, whose appearance, when displayed using a suitable viewing application, is controlled by the associated template file."
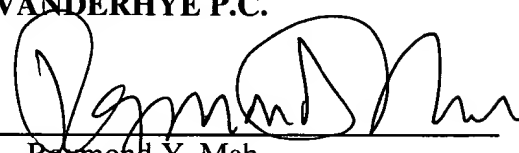
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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